
HRYRA Board Meeting Minutes - November 1, 2023

Attendees

Darrell Dwyer, HRYRA President, HCYC
David Wightman, HRYRA Vice President, KSA
Cc Dwyer, HRYRA Treasurer, HCYC
Elizabeth Sugg, HRYRA Secretary, NBC
Peter Oden, HRYRA Rules, SYC
Mike Colucci, PHRF Handicapper, CYC
John Nonenmacher, HBRA Chairperson, MYC
Peter McConnell, CYC
Kurt Worrell, CYC
Gerald Cohen, HCYC
John Edwards, HCYC
Jessie Fitzgerald-Keller, MYC
Bob Tamagny, MYC
J. Mark English, NBC
Vicki Arbitrio, SYC

Opening Remarks

D. Dwyer reported on the 2023 season. There were 43 boats registered for HRYRA regattas and 85 PHRF certificates issued for the year. It appears that there are a few boats that compete in a lot of regattas and a lot of boats that compete in a few regattas (mainly their home club events). These are about the same numbers as the 2022 season. Some ideas for improving participation were discussed. Some of these included:

- Coordination between “neighboring” i.e. , SYC and NBC, MYC and HCYC, as well as between KSC and CYC. This might include having SYC Regatta weekend and NBC Club Regatta count towards the respective clubs other racing series (e.g., Nyacks Sunday races and SYC’s Pedlow Cup).
- Help promote HRYRA regattas by having clubs provide free dockage/moorings; individual clubs might consider reducing prices for long term stays between regattas by allowing donations for Jr Sailing (applies to KSA, CYC, MYC, SYC, and NBC). Have clubs with dry sailing options to offer

hoist services to make regatta participation easier for trailerable boats that have long distances to travel.

- Consider changes in the HRYRA 2024 Racing Calendar that might increase participation. For example, HCYC often occurs on a weekend that is often a time when school graduation ceremonies take place.
- The racing calendar should be mindful of holidays e.g. Rosh Hashanah October 3
- Discussion on the coordination of SYC NBC events included a possible reintroduction of the TZCF format where the two clubs coordinated a weekend racing format.

Changes to scoring/Common Sailing Instructions

Discussion of the Overall trophy using the Cox Sprague formula centered on the fact that this year the three HRYRA fleets each raced a different amount of races, Fleet 3 racing significantly less races (14) than either of the spinnaker fleets (24 & 22 respectively for Fleets 1 & 2). Thus the 65% criteria for being eligible for this trophy is not applied equitably. It was decided that language should be added to the CSI's to clarify the overall trophy requirements. [Note: It was subsequently learned that the Overall trophy is engraved "The Spinnaker Fleet Season Overall Champion".]

Further discussion on the scoring for HRYRA series centered on the fact that currently the score for DNC is the total boats registered for a fleet plus 1. There is a large range of boats competing in an individual race and it was discussed that missing a regatta should not put a boat out of contention for a HRYRA award.

Some ideas that were discussed were:

- Reduce from 'total fleet' to a different number
- Change the number of throw outs,
- Require a certain number of races to qualify for a trophy
- Require a certain number of entire regattas to qualify for an award.
- Change the DNC penalty to the number of boats registered plus 3.
- Change the number of throw outs to one for every 4 races.

P. Oden finally suggested that changing the various aspects of scoring had ramifications that required more deliberation than was available at the current meeting and that forming an ad hoc committee to accomplish this would allow for more time and research to be brought to the problem.

D. Dwyer suggested that V. Arbitrio should head up this committee and she graciously accepted, adding that she would want P. Oden to be part of this committee. She would seek other volunteers from HRYRA to be involved as well.

M. Colucci had mentioned in an email that the use of autopilot might be a good addition to the Distance Race NOR/SI's as it is common practice on Long Island Sound's PHRF racing when boats are single (or double) handed. It was also noted that the Distance Race does not follow the HRYRA CSI's (e.g., Time on Distance scoring was used this year as opposed to HRYRA's use of Time on Time scoring). When contacted a representative of NBC explained that this race is a NBC event that HRYRA has chosen to include in its overall series of races.

Treasurer's Report

C. Dwyer provided a detailed report of income and expenditures for the year. HRYRA is quite solvent with a "cushion" of funds relegated to updating the software used to compute and record PHRF numbers when that becomes necessary.

HRYRA Website

HRYRA officers are continuing to seek someone with the skills to help update the HRYRA website, especially as it relates to keeping track of the PHRF handicapping requirements. As M. Colucci (HRYRA PHRF handicapper) stated; "Without the computer program I'm not going [to be able] to do it!"

PRO Need for 2024

Discussion centered on some of the problems with race management as it related to using "outside" PRO's this past racing season. Some ideas were discussed including having one or more individuals designated at each regatta to assist the PRO in understanding some of the intricacies of racing on the Hudson especially given the vast amount of local knowledge that HRYRA members have to offer. D. Dwyer reported that since HRYRA is paying for the services of the "outside" PRO's that "we should call the tune."

Having races be longer (45 to 60 minutes) was also a shared concern. The consensus was that the PRO's that HRYRA uses should be responsive to the individual clubs. Ensuring that procedures are in place to effect this should be a goal for next year.

- CYC and KSC and MYC requested PRO's for their regattas

- HCYC's PRO will be provided by SYC
- NBC and SYC will provide their own PROs for their regattas

Rules Update

Definition of races in NoRs: "2 races are scheduled. There may be more."
The idea is to focus on longer races while also allowing the RC to schedule as many races as possible on a given day to allow for possible days where no races can be held.

Club Reports

- HBRA sailed 16 races in 2023.
- NBC had 18 cruising boats competing this season. Ideal18 membership and adult sailing programs continue to grow.
- SYC is planning to hold the Ilse Biedermann Women's Challenge Cup.
- SYC and NBC are going to try and coordinate schedules.
- HCYC is actively looking for more participants. There were 13 at the regatta this year. Competitors can stay in Safe Harbor for free.
- MYC participation is increasing because of the involvement of the Youth Program. Youth group went cruising in Croatia this summer. There are Youth participants available for crewing.
- MYC, SYC, CYC, KSA, NBC Youth programs can all consider organizing Youth involvement in HRYRA competitions. HRYRA Youth representatives can help coordinate the club efforts; perhaps draft descriptions, flyers, and announcements to share with the Youth leaders at the clubs.
- CYC racing participation was off because of weather conditions and the smoke from Canada. Adult sailing program is bringing in new sailors.